

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:  U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	DOCKET NO. RPU-00-1 (TF-00-64)
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**ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR ADDITIONAL TIME  
AND RESCHEDULING HEARING**

(Issued July 14, 2000)

On March 15, 2000, U S WEST Communications, Inc. (U S WEST), filed a tariff identified as TF-00-64 in which U S WEST proposes to deaverage its wholesale and retail rates in Iowa. Pursuant to rules adopted by the Federal Communications Commission, states that conduct arbitration proceedings to establish geographically deaveraged rates for unbundled network elements (UNEs) (U S WEST's "wholesale" rates) are required to set rates for at least three zones. See 47 C.F.R. § 51.507(f). U S WEST asserts that wholesale and retail rates should be deaveraged at the same time, using the same rate group structure, to avoid pricing anomalies and disparities.

On April 14, 2000, the Utilities Board (Board) issued an order docketing U S WEST's filing and establishing a procedural schedule. On May 26, 2000, the Board issued an order requiring U S WEST to file certain additional information on or before June 9, 2000. On June 6, 2000, U S WEST filed a motion for an additional seven days to file certain additional information, and on June 8 through 19, 2000, the other parties to this case each filed responses to the U S WEST motion, generally stating

they had no objection to U S WEST's motion so long as they were given an equivalent extension of time to file their direct testimony.

On June 22, 2000, the Board issued an order granting U S WEST's motion for an additional seven days and extending the other parties' date to file direct testimony and rebuttal testimony to each other by the same seven days.

On June 29, 2000, U S WEST filed a motion for extension of time for its own rebuttal testimony and for all prehearing filings, requesting that the dates be extended by seven days. However, U S WEST did not request any change in the September 26, 2000, hearing date.

The Board finds it appropriate to grant U S WEST's motion for extension of all prehearing filing dates and, at the same time, to reschedule the hearing in this matter to a later date. If the Board granted U S WEST's motion but did not re-schedule the hearing, then the Board would not have adequate time to prepare for the hearing. Accordingly, the Board will revise the entire remaining schedule as shown below.

The Board is reserving three days for this hearing, October 9, 10, and 11, 2000. The parties are advised that the Board will make every reasonable effort to complete the hearing within that time frame.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. The motion for additional time filed on June 29, 2000, by U S WEST is granted.
2. The procedural schedule in this matter is revised as follows:

a. U S WEST shall file its rebuttal testimony, with underlying workpapers and exhibits, on or before August 21, 2000.

b. Consumer Advocate Division of the Department of Justice and any intervenor shall file rebuttal testimony on any of the issues raised initially in that party's direct testimony and responded to by another party, on or before September 5, 2000.

c. The parties shall file a joint statement of the issues on or before September 11, 2000.

d. All parties, which choose to file a prehearing brief, may do so on or before September 14, 2000.

e. A hearing shall be held beginning at 10 a.m. on October 9, 2000, for the purpose of receiving testimony and the cross-examination of all testimony. The hearing shall be held in the Board's hearing room at 350 Maple Street, Des Moines, Iowa. The parties shall appear one-half hour prior to the time of the hearing for the purpose of marking exhibits. Persons with disabilities requiring assistive services or devices to observe or participate should contact the Board at (515) 281-5256 in advance of the scheduled date to request that appropriate arrangements be made.

f. The parties may file simultaneous initial briefs on or before October 18, 2000.

k. All parties who filed initial briefs may file reply briefs on or before  
October 25, 2000.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Raymond K. Vawter, Jr.      /s/ Diane Munns  
Executive Secretary

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2000.